

# Five Tips For Saving Money With Your Vehicle...

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## 2. Determine How Long You Intend To Own Your Vehicle

A clear plan for your car keeps you from over- or under-maintaining the vehicle. I often tell people there are two plans: change vehicles often and do the minimum necessary while you own them, or start with a good vehicle, provide exceptional care, and run the wheels off of it!

It's OK to be on the "use it up" program if you know when to quit, but no vehicle runs forever. Do not form an emotional bond with your vehicle! When your car reaches the end of its economic viability it's important to be able to say goodbye. Trying to maintain a "challenged" vehicle seldom works out for either us or our clients. I value our client relationships, and I hate to see them deteriorate along with a vehicle that should be replaced.

## 3. Fix Problems As They Happen

Don't let problems build up. If left unattended, problems that are easy and inexpensive to fix can develop into difficult and expensive ones that can doom your car. Good vehicles can allow a huge backlog of problems to develop before they finally cry out for help, and by then playing catch-up may not be the best plan even for a good car.

Keeping the list of maintenance recommendations short prevents larger problems, makes it easier to budget for repairs, and maintains the vehicle's safety and reliability between fixes.

## Drew's Kitchen: Dilled Cucumber Salad

Springtime is salad time, and this light and simple recipe is an ideal way to get the season going.

Place cucumber and red onion in shallow bowl. In another bowl, stir together vinegar, vegetable oil, seasoned salt, sugar and pepper, stirring until all of the sugar dissolves. Pour over cucumbers and onions; stir in dill weed and toss gently. Let sit at room temperature for an hour. Makes 2 to 3 servings



### INGREDIENTS

1 Large cucumber, sliced thin  
1/2 Red onion, thinly sliced  
1/3 cup vinegar  
2 Tbsp vegetable oil  
1/2 tsp seasoned salt  
1 tsp granulated sugar  
1/2 cup of sour cream  
1 tsp pepper  
4 tsp chopped fresh dill weed

**"It makes no sense to spend money on your vehicle until you know exactly what is needed."**  
-Tom

## 4. Have Regular Interval Services With Oil Changes

Every 3,000 to 5,000-miles you should have your car serviced *including* a 90-point inspection, change of oil, and a new oil filter. Make sure you get the inspection and not just the oil change. New oil is good, but an inspection can identify important problems that have nothing to do with oil. This is cheap insurance compared to the cost and inconvenience of a new motor or new vehicle.

## 5. Keep Your Fuel Injectors Clean

Dirty fuel injectors can decrease gas mileage or even damage your engine, and improving your mileage by just 5% will deliver a great return over time. Start by being careful what fuel goes into your tank. Contrary to belief, all gas is not the same! Stay with name-brand fuel stations and avoid unbranded "Ma and Pa" stations. Have your fuel injectors and intake system cleaned properly at least every 30,000 miles. The expenses of poor mileage or a set of new injectors quickly outweigh the few-cents-a-gallon savings at the pump.

# Lawns to Gardens

It seems the cost of just about everything is going up in the supermarkets, and more people are beginning to grow food at home. Here are some fun statistics about the joys of gardening:

- **44%** of gardeners increase their time spent outdoors due to their garden
- **58%** of gardeners increase their fruit and vegetable intake each day
- **83%** of gardeners save money on food because of their garden
- **75%** of gardeners share extra produce with people who don't live with them
- **44%** of gardeners meet new neighbors as a result of their garden.

It's a "growing" trend in Portland, so why not consider turning part of your yard into a food garden? If you don't have a yard, you can also grow food plants in containers!

## TDASI Carbon Neutral Program nearing milestone!

In only its second year of operation, the *TDASI Carbon Neutral Program* is nearing an amazing **1,000,000 pounds of carbon offset**, enough to **power 57 homes per year!**

It is important to act now to support renewable energy and begin saving on your automotive services through the TDASI Carbon Neutral Program! Visit [www.TDASICarbonNeutral.org](http://www.TDASICarbonNeutral.org) to sign up!

Benefits of the TDASI Carbon Neutral Program include:

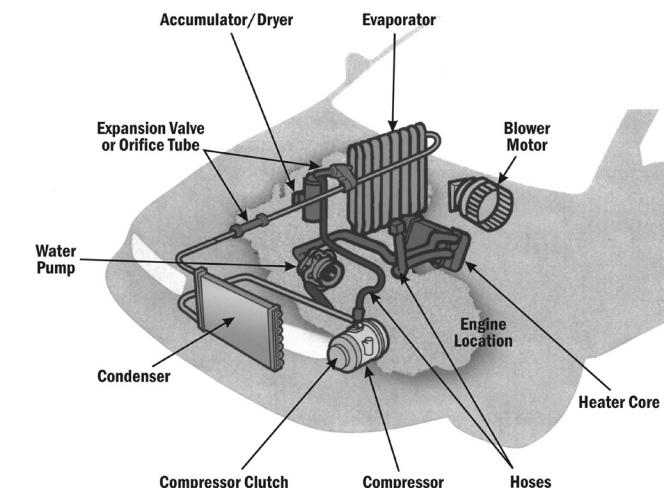
- Offsets of your vehicle's carbon emissions for 1 year
- 10% discount on all labor at TDASI for your vehicle (Not to be combined with other offers)
- Environmentally-conscious seasonal offers on TDASI services
- TDASI Carbon Neutral Program window sticker
- Investment through BEF into renewable energy.

### For Carbon Neutral Program Members ONLY!

Please keep your eyes on your email... this quarter's offer for a **HALF-PRICE FUEL INJECTOR CLEANING** will be coming out the first week of April. Thank you for helping make a difference in our world!

## When Was Your A/C System Last Serviced?

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deliver air at the vents that is at least 25 degrees cooler than the ambient air temperature.

For this system to work correctly and be ready for hot weather, it needs to be fully charged and free from leaks so that the refrigerant and the oil which lubricate the compressor stay in the system. Although A/C systems are resistant to leaks and contamination, they are not leak-proof. Over time, contamination or leaks can appear and affect the cooling performance of your A/C system.

The most common cause of inadequate cooling is when the refrigerant and oil leaks through worn seals and o-rings, loose fittings and connections. We recommend having your A/C system checked now before you really need it this summer.

To encourage you to get a jump on getting your A/C tested and serviced if necessary I have a couple of money saving coupons in this newsletter. Do it now before the peak season and save!

We take great care to protect the environment while we are servicing your A/C system!

### OFFICE HOURS

7 AM to 6 PM Mon - Fri

10 AM to 1 PM Sat

### SHOP HOURS

8 AM to 6 PM Mon - Fri

### Your Car Matters

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## Profile: The GreenGrocer

When Gwen Goss-Dedrickson opened up her natural foods store in Oregon City, she had a vision: to form a community of like-minded people who wish to live "green and good". Her plan? To offer local, organic bulk foods that reduce the need for plastic. "We want to eventually eliminate packaging" says Gwen. "We have a commercial kitchen to make items like ketchup and apple sauce, and we use glass containers." She has even lowered prices to encourage customers to use their own packaging and buy in bulk.

Gwen's forward-thinking store has plans to carry as much local produce as possible once available in Oregon. As one of the founders of Oregon City's farmers market, Gwen runs Green Grocer from 9:30am - 6:30pm every day, and you can call her at 503-657-5977. Her ideas are sure to catch on as society relearns to live a more simple, local life. TDASI tips our hat to Gwen, The Green Grocer!



**Spotlight:**  
**Mike Launder - "Drivability Diagnostician"**

Tom Dwyer Automotive's Mike Launder solves any problems affecting drivability, safety, or usability. Mike trained as a technician at PCC, earning all 8 A.S.E. Certifications, an L-1 Advanced Engine Certification, (required at TDASI, although not at all shops) and recognition as one of three 1991 Motor Magazine "Techs of the Year".

Mike has seen more changes in the last 5 years than any other time in his career. The emphasis on automotive computerization requires constant training and equipment updates, and he appreciates the support he gets for this at TDASI. Mike thinks things are still changing, and that the shops that survive will be the ones with clear goals and plans for achieving them.

When he's not under the hood, Mike lives a quiet life in Newberg, Oregon with Lori, his wife of 26 years, and his two boys Andrew and Robert. He enjoys hiking with his family and photography. Next time you're at the shop, ask him about his off-roading experience in his PT Cruiser!

